

NATIONAL  
CONSUMER  
PROTECTION  
WEEK 2015  
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NATIONAL CONSUMER  
PROTECTION WEEK  
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CELEBRATE  
NATIONAL  
NUTRITION  
MONTH  
DURING MARCH WITH MYPLATE!

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March 2015 Issue 59

ATTORNEY GENERAL  
BILL SCHUETTE'S

# Senior Brigade

National Consumer Protection Week is **MARCH 1-7** and is a joint effort by nonprofit groups and governmental agencies to highlight, educate, and provide resources available to protect consumers.

Every day, the Consumer Protection Division of the Department of Attorney General works to defend Michigan consumers against unfair, misleading, and/or deceptive business practices.

In 2014, the Complaint Intake section received over **10,000 WRITTEN COMPLAINTS!**

This month, Attorney General Bill Schuette highlights these efforts during National Consumer Protection Week.

To learn more, visit the National Consumer Protection Week website at [ncpw.gov](http://ncpw.gov) for free educational resources and blog posts from national consumer protection experts.

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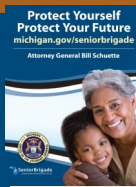
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Don't forget to also check out the **Senior Brigade website**. There you will find useful information on how to protect yourself and your loved ones from fraud, scams, identity theft, and more.

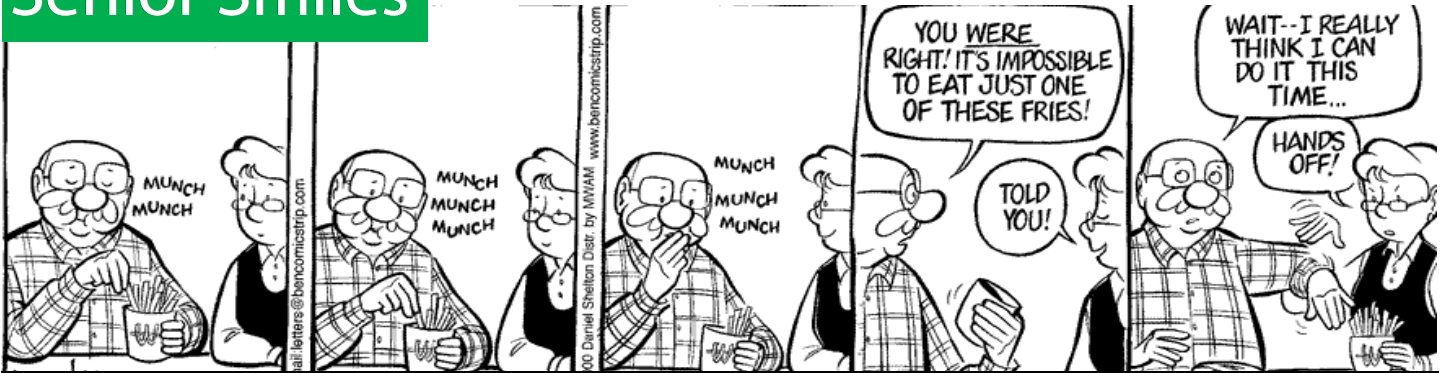


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[AGCSI@mi.gov](mailto:AGCSI@mi.gov)  
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The *Protect Yourself; Protect Your Future*,  
is available in a printable PDF on the  
[Senior Brigade website](http://SeniorBrigade.com).



# Senior Smiles



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## TOP SCAMS FOR 2015

### 1. RANSOMWARE:

A computer virus attached to a file that makes it impossible for a user to access files on their computer. Thieves demand payment in order to “unlock” the computer, many times they impersonate the FBI.

### 2. MOBILE PAYMENTS:

Experts warn users about downloading what looks like payment apps. These apps may actually be viruses that steal your money.

### 3. CREDIT CARD CHIPS:

Banks are now inserting computer chips into your credit card to make it more difficult for your information to be hacked. Watch out for emails telling you it's time to register your card or other phishing methods.

March is National Nutrition Month, and while eating healthy can be both difficult and expensive, the

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics offers many tips to help you succeed on your health conscious journey.

The Academy also offers tips on how to cook for one and eating healthy while on a budget.

Always remember that when making changes to diet or exercise, it's important to first consult with your physician.

Source: [Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics](http://Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics)



# I WANT YOU

## TO GET THE TAX CREDITS YOU DESERVE.

'Tis the season - tax season! The following free resources are available to help low income senior tax filers:

### 1. Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

The [Volunteer Income Tax Assistance \(VITA\) program](#) offers free tax help to people who generally make \$53,000 or less, persons with disabilities, the elderly and limited English speaking taxpayers who need assistance in preparing their own tax returns.

### 2. Tax Counseling for the Elderly

The [Tax Counseling for the Elderly \(TCE\) program](#) offers **FREE** tax help to individuals who are 60 or older.

### 3. Get Free Tax Prep Help

The IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and the Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) [programs offer free tax help](#) for taxpayers who qualify.



[www.mi.gov/sb](http://www.mi.gov/sb)

[AGCSI@mi.gov](mailto:AGCSI@mi.gov)

1-877-765-8388